

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN
FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE.

1. SMITHSONIAN AND INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE CULTURA (INAC)
HAVE BEEN IN PROTRACTED NEGOTIATION AIMED AT ARRANGING, AND
OBTAINING FIRM OFFICIAL COMMITMENT BY JUNE 2, 1975, FOR
PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE
SCHEDULED JUNE 25 THROUGH JULY 6, 1975. THIS PARTICIPATION
INCLUDES PERFORMANCE TOURS OF MAJOR U.S. CITIES FOLLOWING
FESTIVAL APPEARANCES IN WASHINGTON, AND COLLATERAL APPEAR-
ANCES IN FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN PERFORMERS OF PANAMANIAN
ORIGIN.

2. FIRM OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, GHANA, HAITI, JAPAN, LEBANON
AND MEXICO. SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS, HOWEVER, HAVE
JUST LEARNED FROM PANAMANIAN COUNTERPARTS IN INAC'S
PATRIMONIO HISTORICO THAT PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION NOW
APPEARS UNLIKELY.

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3. COMPLEXITIES OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS MAKE IT NECESSARY

THAT FIRM COMMITMENTS BE RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING NATIONS BY JUNE 2 AT LATEST. AFTER JUNE 2 SMITHSONIAN WILL BEGIN DISASSEMBLE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY NATIONAL PARTICIPATION WHICH LACKS OFFICIAL COMMITMENT. THESE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE ADVANCE PUBLICITY, RECEPCIONS AND HOSPITALITY, AND ORGANIZED PROGRAM AROUND BICENTENNIAL ETHNIC THEME WHICH PROMISES TO BE REWARDING PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT.

4. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EFFORT ON PART OF AMBASSADOR OR EMBASSY STAFF TO DISCUSS MATTER AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN GOP. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY SMITHSONIAN SECRETARY RIPLEY'S KEEN PERSONAL INTEREST IN PANAMA'S PARTICIPATION AND TO EMPHASIZE THE MANIFEST

OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE FESTIVAL FOR STRENGTHENING CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. SHOULD GOP NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE COMMITMENT, SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY SUGGESTION GOP MIGHT WISH TO OFFER FOR USE WITH MEDIA EXPLAINING PANAMA'S ABSENCE DESPITE PREVIOUS EXPECTATIONS OF ITS PRESENCE. INGERSOLL

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